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LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the following message (see annex) from His Excellency Mr. Venancio de Moura, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, with the request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Josefa COELHO DA CRUZ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 1 September 1993 from the Minister of External Relations of Angola addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have knowledge of a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of August by the representative of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the United States of America regarding recent statements by Mr. Jonas Savimbi indicating UNITA would be inclined to accept an unconditional cease-fire.

The Angolan Government received this news with some reservation, owing to the fact that similar positions have been taken on many other occasions without any practical relation to the real intentions of UNITA. This was proven by that organization's behaviour during meetings since October 1992, namely, those in Namibe, Angola; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

On each of these occasions, the Angolan Government, the United Nations and the Troika (Observers) saw themselves becoming involved in a veritable UNITA trap. UNITA sought time after time, through the most varied stratagems, to ease international pressures to which it was being subjected, in order to cover its reorganization for new military actions.

This has been a repeated practice to which UNITA has made us all accustomed, and regarding which we think it necessary to take energetic action to ensure that, once and for all, UNITA understands that it will not be able to challenge with impunity the international community.

Since actions speak louder than words, the Angolan Government has always hoped that UNITA statements would be followed by concrete action demonstrating political will, with the goal of finding a negotiated solution to the Angolan conflict.

By its not acting in this manner, we may conclude that the UNITA position, instead of indicating a serious wish to negotiate the re-establishment of peace in Angola with the Government, intends exactly the opposite. In effect, one can surmise UNITA's apprehension that the Security Council of the United Nations will adopt more forceful concrete measures to coerce it to accept a dialogue based upon the Bicesse Accords, sign the Abidjan Protocol as it was negotiated and agreed, and adhere to the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the body over which you currently preside.

UNITA intends purely and simply to ignore the results of all efforts developed by the United Nations and the international community which seek to contribute in an overall manner to the restoration of peace in Angola. It insinuates that it is necessary to start this process again from the beginning. As such, UNITA has resorted to a series of fallacious arguments in order to justify the senseless war which it unleashed after having lost the elections considered free and fair in September 1992, preferring to immerse the country in a political and humanitarian crisis without precedent.

I should like to take this opportunity to express the willingness of the Angolan Government to renew discussions with UNITA at any time and in any location mutually agreed, as long as the organization communicates unmistakably its interest in negotiating a definitive cease-fire, indicating to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Angola that it will do this based on respect for the Bicesse Accords, the Abidjan Protocol and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, namely, United Nations Security Council resolutions 804 (1993), 811 (1993) and 851 (1993).

(Signed) Venancio DE MOURA
Minister of External Relations